

NORTH DAKOTA CROP, LIVESTOCK & WEATHER REPORT



Released: April 12, 2004
For Week Ending: April 11, 2004
ND-CW1504

Cooperating With:
NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE,
FARM SERVICE AGENCY,
ND AG WEATHER NETWORK (NDAWN) and
UND AEROSPACE REGIONAL WEATHER
INFORMATION CENTER

General: Dry conditions in most of the state continued the early start to fieldwork and seeding in spite of colder temperatures at the end of the week, according to the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. The northeast district continues to deal with wet fields and standing water. Small grain and sugarbeet plantings started last week. Some southern tier counties reported small grain seeding was in full swing. Good weather conditions have also allowed calves and lambs to remain generally healthy throughout most of the state.

Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 7 percent very short, 20 short, 64 adequate and 9 surplus compared with the five-year (1999-2003) average of 5 percent very short, 15 short, 65 adequate and 15 surplus. The state's soils were generally drier last week.

The statewide average starting date for fieldwork is expected to be April 14. This compares to last year's actual starting date of April 17 and the five-year average of April 22. The record earliest starting date for fieldwork is April 6 set in 1981. Starting dates range from April 4 in the southwest district to an expected date of April 24 in the northeast district.

Crops: Producers in the northern districts continue waiting for soils to warm up and dry out before starting fieldwork. Statewide, 6 percent of the other spring wheat, 2 percent of the barley and oats, 1 percent of the durum and sugarbeets were planted. Last year at this time, 7 percent of the other spring wheat, 1 percent of the durum, barley and oats and 4 percent of the sugarbeets were planted.

Livestock: Conditions were favorable for calving and lambing, which made good progress last week. Calving was 68 percent complete, the same as last year. Lambing was 79 percent complete compared with 81 percent complete last year. Sheep shearing was 86 percent complete compared with 88 percent last year. Cow conditions were rated 81 percent good to excellent last week compared with 75 the previous week and 68 last year. Calf conditions were rated 84 percent good to excellent compared with 77 percent last year. Sheep and lamb conditions were both rated 83 percent good to excellent. Last year sheep and lamb conditions were rated 69 and 75 percent good to excellent, respectively. Livestock feed and hay supplies were tighter last week. Current supplies of hay and forage were rated 2 percent very short, 15 short, 76 adequate and 7 surplus. Grain and concentrate supplies were 4 percent short, 90 adequate and 6 surplus. Pasture conditions were reported 79 percent still dormant and 21 growing compared to 28 percent growing a year ago.

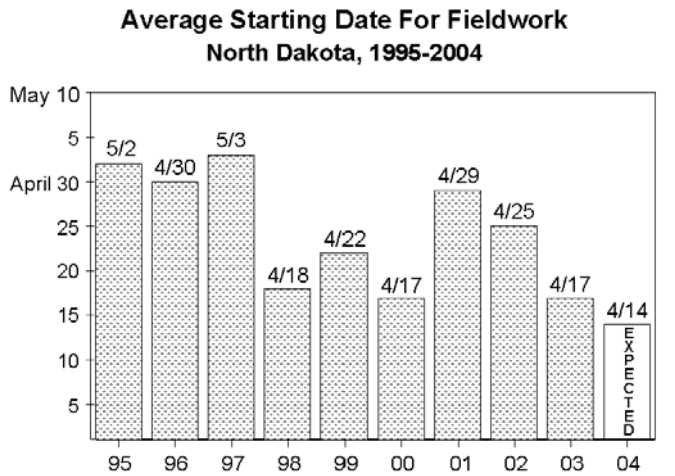
Planting Completed				
April 11, 2004 with Comparisons				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	1999-03 Avg.
(Percent)				
SMALL GRAINS				
Barley	2	0	1	1
Durum Wheat	1	0	1	0
HRS Wheat	6	0	7	2
Oats	2	0	1	1
LATE SEASON CROPS				
Canola	1	0	0	0
Sugarbeets	1	0	4	1

Livestock Condition					
Week Ending April 11, 2004					
Livestock	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
(Percent)					
Cows	0	1	18	72	9
Calves	0	1	15	74	10
Sheep	0	1	16	77	6
Lambs	0	1	16	77	6

Soil Temperatures: Average soil temperatures on April 11 ranged from a low of 32 degrees F in Langdon to a high of 43 degrees F in Linton. These readings reflect daily average temperatures under 4 inches of bare soil and recorded by the North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN).

AVERAGE SOIL TEMPERATURES*, April 11, 2004			
Station	Temperature	Station	Temperature
Degrees F		Degrees F	
NORTHWEST		CENTRAL	
Bowbells	35	Carrington	37
Minot	40	Robinson	36
Williston	39	Streeter	35
NORTH CENTRAL		EAST CENTRAL	
Baker	38	Dazey	35
Bottineau	37	Fargo	35
Rolla	36	SOUTHWEST	
NORTHEAST		Bowman	38
Cavalier	33	Dickinson	39
Grand Forks	37	SOUTH CENTRAL	
Langdon	32	Linton	43
WEST CENTRAL		SOUTHEAST	
Turtle Lake	36	Oakes	39
Watford City	38	Wyndmere	36

* Thermometers located 4 inches under bare soil. Source: NDAWN, Department of Soil Science, NDSU.



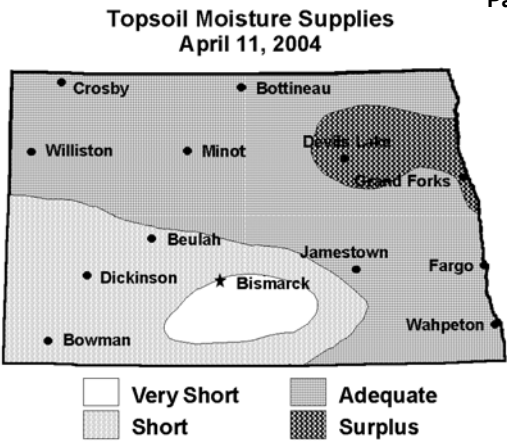
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NORTH DAKOTA CROP WEATHER REPORT, Week Ending April 11, 2004

Soil Moisture: North Dakota, April 11, 2004

Date	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
(Percent)				
TOPSOIL				
This Week	7	20	64	9
Last Week	5	21	63	11
Last Year	13	27	54	6
1999-03 Avg	5	15	65	15
SUBSOIL				
This Week	11	27	59	3
Last Week	7	31	58	4
Last Year	16	27	55	2
1999-03 Avg	5	17	67	11



Weather: After a warm start to the week, below normal conditions developed as the jet stream flowed from the northwest across the Northern Great Plains this past week. This resulted in average temperatures that were slightly above normal for the past week. The transition to northwesterly flow in upper levels of the atmosphere resulted in several cold frontal passages that resulted in scattered precipitation across the state. The heaviest precipitation occurred mid-week in northeastern North Dakota where Langdon and Cavalier topped the one-inch mark in liquid precipitation. Most other regions also reported light rainfall giving way to light snowfall. The west and southwest reported the greatest amount of snowfall during the early part of the weekend.

Outlook, April 12-18: Northwesterly flow will give way to strong high pressure ridging on Monday, April 12th. This ridging will return temperatures to normal and above normal values across the state with temperatures soaring into the 70s in the southwest and near 60 degrees in the northeast during the first half of the week. A series of weak storm systems will begin working their way across the state during mid-week bringing a chance of showers and thundershowers Wednesday and Thursday. Cooler conditions closer to seasonal norms are expected to return by Friday into the weekend. Low temperatures will generally be in the low to mid 30s statewide throughout the week.

Temperature & Precipitation: Districts and Stations
North Dakota, Week ending April 11, 2004

District Averages	Average Temperature		Seasonal Precipitation Beginning April 1		
	Past Week	Depart Normal ^{1/}	Past Week	Total	Depart Normal ^{1/}
(Degrees F)					
Northwest (1)	42	4	0.04	0.07	-0.38
N. Central (2)	42	3	0.14	0.17	-0.31
Northeast (3)	43	4	0.62	0.62	0.17
W. Central (4)	43	2	0.02	0.02	-0.48
Central (5)	44	5	0.00	0.00	-0.51
E. Central (6)	43	3	0.00	0.04	-0.61
Southwest (7)	43	2	0.01	0.01	-0.47
S. Central (8)	44	3	0.00	0.00	-0.52
Southeast (9)	46	5	0.01	0.01	-0.60

^{1/} Normal is the 1961-90 average. NA = Not Available.
Weather data collected from NDAWN stations and compiled by UND
Aerospace Regional Weather Information Center.

Temperature & Precipitation: Districts and Stations
North Dakota, Week ending April 11, 2004

Stations by District	Temperature Past Week		Seasonal Precipitation Beginning April 1		
	High	Low	Past Week	Total	Depart Normal ^{1/}
(Degrees F)					
(1) Bowbells	69	14	0.00	0.07	-0.38
Williston	68	20	0.02	0.02	-0.35
Mohall	67	15	0.05	0.07	-0.44
Minot	70	16	0.10	0.10	-0.36
(2) Baker	68	17	0.20	0.20	-0.35
Bottineau	67	14	0.09	0.18	-0.23
Rugby	70	17	0.14	0.14	-0.35
(3) Cando	63	20	0.46	0.46	0.07
Cavalier	67	19	1.09	1.09	0.68
Forest River	66	22	0.27	0.27	-0.27
Grand Forks	65	22	0.03	0.03	-0.48
Langdon	63	18	1.01	1.01	0.70
St. Thomas	66	22	0.83	0.83	0.29
(4) Hazen	73	11	0.02	0.02	-0.53
Turtle Lake	71	16	0.04	0.04	-0.47
Watford City	69	16	0.01	0.01	-0.43
(5) Carrington	70	21	0.00	0.00	-0.52
Harvey	72	19	0.01	0.01	-0.42
Jamestown	71	18	0.00	0.00	-0.48
Robinson	71	16	0.00	0.00	-0.50
Streeter	70	15	0.00	0.00	-0.65
(6) Dazey	68	18	0.00	0.00	-0.58
Fargo	71	16	0.00	0.00	-0.73
Hillsboro	67	21	0.00	0.12	-0.53
(7) Beach	71	16	0.00	0.00	-0.45
Bowman	71	15	0.00	0.00	-0.43
Dickinson	72	15	0.02	0.02	-0.54
Hettinger	70	14	0.00	0.00	-0.45
(8) Mandan	74	16	0.00	0.00	-0.52
Linton	71	16	0.00	0.00	-0.52
(9) Edgeley	71	19	0.04	0.04	-0.61
Oakes	73	18	0.00	0.00	-0.72
Wyndmere	74	20	0.00	0.00	-0.46

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